

HOW TO RECOGNISE TRUE FRIENDS

Discover the 7 Principles of Friendship
& Supercharge your love life

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INTRODUCTION

These are the rules of friendship, my father once told me:

This is a tribute to my Dad who knew the days I was upbeat and the days I was sad. After my first betrayal, at the very tender age of 16, I wound up home crying and my father consoled me for days and later told me a word I couldn't forget. He said, "I shouldn't have been friends in the first place with the rookie that was causing me grief."

According to my Dad, there are levels to friendship, and trusting my instinct is very important.

A deceitful person will never make a true friend, because the habit of being a villain has been ingrained. However, when two scoundrels merge, they may understand each other perfectly and soar into great height of friendship. If you're not a scoundrel yourself, you don't have a business hanging out with a scoundrel.

I used to think that a fun and a pleasurable company is meant to be the bedrock of friendship but I learnt the hard way that sharing a laugh with someone is not the A to Z of friendship. Friendship goes beyond having fun, sharing drinks or having a good time.

To live a great life, we have to be proactive about making friends and to choose our friends, we have to think about the value system of the individuals in question and what spending time with them is going to mean for our future. I've

learnt this over and over, that once I'm privileged to know someone is no friend to me, the best thing I can do for myself is to avoid being intimate with them.

I grew up in a religious setting but during high school, I had a way of attracting very weird set of characters as friends, and my Dad was the type that noticed everything.

He once told me that I could keep people at the level of acquaintances, and have nice conversations with them, and totally wish them the best, without bringing them into my world. My father equally told me that I can say No to an offer in a polite and very firm way, without being rude, and I can break up a lengthy conversation midway in a very nice and respectful way without creating enmity.

RECOGNIZING TRUE FRIENDS

Our ability to give, make sacrifice, render help and support will not always be reciprocated, and that is okay. Sometimes we have to be willing to give and not look back.

One of the core cardinal principles of friendship is A CHOICE TO IDENTIFY AND DECLARE A PROOF OF ASSOCIATION.

This principle states that a real friend seek to stay true to carrying your identity well over to other people even when they are no longer with you. When a true friend crosses over to another party, they choose to be defined as your friend, or as your partner and will lay the yardstick that their polarity and point of interest is aligned with you. A fake friend crosses over and instantly assumes a neutral status and takes no point of reference as coming or being aligned or affiliated to you. If your name comes up for gossip or for bashing, a fake friend is completely excited to mock, shame and ridicule you, making the associations they have with you completely false. While a true friend will defend your act, switch topic, gets angry over the discussion or would rather talk to you about your errors and fault rather than to others about it, so as to see you improve, a fake friend will take complete delight in making sweet gossip out of it, call you barbaric names while doing it and have complete fun telling your faults to others. My dear readers, please avoid this set of friends. Understand that if they gossip to you about other people, they will be willing to gossip to other people about you. Find friends who will share your confidence and keep your words to heart.

The second cardinal rule of friendship states that friendship works on THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

True friends will tell you what is going on in their life, because they want you to be a referee. Their accountability is coming because they see you as a friend who should hear the background stories and know the true status of things. They prefer you hear it from them first of all, than to hear it outside. They want you to take to their point of view, they value your opinion, your trust and wouldn't want to leave you guessing, or at a loss of words, when other people ask them about you.

What Is The Third Principle? Friendship works on THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPANIONSHIP.

A true friend doesn't need you to be perfect, or well-dressed before he warms over to you. He doesn't need you to be rich or popular, he doesn't need you be in money or to drive that expensive car, a true friend will stay with you and visit you, exactly where you are. He will overlook everything other people find funny, amusing or defective about you. A true friend sees past your errors and thinks you're okay and worth being around with. A true friend is trying to be your side kick, and stick with you for the company, and not for the benefit.

A friend will hence persuade you, it's time to go. They don't want to leave you behind, they prefer you to be with them. In case of a split, they set limits, they use the word let's go often, and when they want to quit, they say I'm fed up, let's do this for just 30 minutes and be gone. A friend doesn't want to leave your side or abandon you at a public space when you need them most. They are often quick to insist that since they arrived with you, it is best you both leave the premise together. And while there are exceptions to this rule, one mark of a false friend, is their willingness to rapidly break things up and say, let's split up, I will see you later at the lobby, I want to hang out with this rookie and see what he is up to.

A true friend visits his friend on the hospital bed, not because he wants more jokes, or wants a favour, but because this rule of companionship is the bed rock of their association. You can always see people who make the friendship cut, often willing to connect spontaneously with you where companionship is involved, like the saying; "bird of the same feathers flock together, a friend finds his mess mate, and wants him around not for money, but for the good company and the memories he brings. You can easily spot the foul friend leaving, as soon as you withdraw the benefit, they are quick to abuse their mate, disrespect or talk evil of him for his lapses. When the world crumbles, a false friend is nowhere to be found, a true friend however abides forever.

Fourth principle: A TRUE FRIEND HAS YOUR BEST INTEREST AT HEART.

A true friend sees your win as his win, your success as his own, he is on your team, and he works extra hard to support you and to make you a winner. He may

go out of his way to lend a helping hand, if he has the skill, will do all he can to support your career, may find materials for you to make you better, will teach you things for free, which other people will bill you for. A friend if given the chance and having the necessary skill set, will take you aside and counsel you. He will play the role of a therapist, a coach, and a mentor.

While money is a very sensitive topic, it is very obvious that a friend is philanthropic to his fellow friend. A friend is quick to give up money that doesn't break the bank. A friend is not taking you as the pawn, he is not chasing you as his meal ticket, instead he sees you as a team, and a pal, and wants you to be successful, independent just as he is. This is why a friend is often quick to tell you what will work, or what won't work, as it he thinks he owes you the truth ahead of time.

A friend rejoices that you made the mark, he is not coming to your house, because he wants a cut, he is coming because he loves the smile and the cheer on your face and wants to celebrate. He sees the trophy and says yes, we did it! A true friend will chase you down, even when you go and hide, because he knows the world isn't just the same without you. The opposite is what works with false friends, a false friend instantly moves on and thinks of a replacement, a false friend will find a juicy information and deliberately hide those profitable information from you to keep you stuck or to keep you broke or miserable.

Fifth attribute of true friends: A TRUE FRIEND TAKES YOU AS EQUAL

Equality is a capital rule, and the best of friendship develops when a friend thinks he is equal to his friend, even when a distinct hierarchy exists. A real friend or the kind that will make association worthwhile is the one who treats his friends right, and he does this, because he sees her as an equal. He sees his friend as a fellow comrade, and as someone who has earned the right to be at par with him. The feeling of supremacy, is a mark of pseudofriendship. While respect is often a binding factor which facilitates friendship between people of different backgrounds and economic status, the moment respect is absent, ridicule sets in, and the moment this becomes visible, ill feelings will begin to surface which will compromise the friendship tenet.

A friend can display pride to others, but on an overall scale, he settles among his pairs and thinks his caucus and circle of intimate friends are wholesome beings worthy of respect. Even angry and objectionable teenagers who are rude to their parents and siblings, and are disposed to treat their young ones and juniors with such cruelty, are often seen to treat their fellow bullies with respect. This is because friends see each other as equals and will come down to each other levels and offer condolence, sympathy and laughter. Fair treatment is one cardinal principle of friendship.

People who humiliate each other as friends and have an insult to give at first point of contact are going to make for poor friends and build broken homes if they merge. An ill-mannered person who is quick to rain insult and is rude to all those he is meeting for the very first time, will make a poor friend. If you want to find true love, find true friends. If you come upon a fake friend and try to put romance into the mix, you may end up scoring a wild night out, but you will end up being a frustrated lover.

While it is often street knowledge, that if friendship doesn't work out, romance can work out very well, but this only makes for short affairs. And this is why many smart rookies will choose to hit and run, this is not because they want to run, but because they know humiliation, abuse and disrespect is all around the corner and if they keep up the facade, they are going to enter into a lot of terror, insult and ridicule .

The sixth yardstick of friendship: THE POLARITY FACTOR

An ideal friend has the same polarity with his friend, that is, he shares the same values, and is ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE BATTLE. Friends are there to be on our side and to expose the enemy, not to cover up their plans. If you have a friend or a family who is aware of the enemies secrets and won't say it but just watches you unconcerned or who hides these information from you, that person has automatically turned himself into a real-life enemy. Understanding the polarity factor can break you free from the wrong family ties and false brotherhoods. Christ said "he who is not for me is against me." Anyone that would not support your course, motivate you or cheer you forward but watches you and does nothing or acts unconcerned even though you have a significant relationship with them is also to be flagged as an enemy.

True Friendship is forged not on self-interest, benefits, paycheck but on the principles of equality, fairness and right doing. Ultimately when you see the friendship walls are broken and the principles of companionship continuously being violated, early on in a relationship, it is time to leave.

To understand if you have a friend, you need to ask about what happens, if you take sex and money out of the equation. What happens if both of you become the same sex, is there going to be need for interaction and dialogue? What happens if you lose your job, and have no active source of funds, will your lady still make her way down to hang out with you? Does she call you with her credit and will she call you just to be around you? Can you peer under the relationship and find a solid foundation and something gold beneath the rumble of passion, romance, desire, family rite and outings, both of you are caught up with?

A broken courtship is better than a broken marriage.

A friend once relayed how he ended an association with a lady he thought was not displaying the true principles of friendship. He wanted to dissociate and put a firm end to the on and off meeting, but didn't want to be too forceful, so according to him, he stayed home for 2 weeks, and this was before the era of covi-19, where working from home was wild spread, as a result of his perpetual stay at home, the girl thinking he had lost his job, safely assumed he had been fired, where as he was on leave, and she subsequently ghosted him and disappeared from his life.

Loyalty is another huge bedrock of true friendship

A partner who has no loyalty to give, but is on the side of the money will trade up his friends at the slightest chance. A real friend is the one that says, it is not about the money, it is not about the fame, I just want to walk with you and I'm down with you no matter what.

According to a popular expert, if you want to have good friends, make yourself a friend first of all. The question to ask before you fall in love is; “What am I willing to do for a friend?”

Before you bring in another lover; Ask and try to see, how your prospective partner treats his or her friends.

Then ask yourself; “how do you expect yourself to be treated as a friend?” Does it march the way you treat people? These last questions will help you from having double standards.

Before we put love into the equation and blur the lines of ethical behaviour with passion, hormones and libido, try to understand what you are willing to do for a person who occupies the friendship status to you. Let’s say that again; what are you willing to do for someone who has her own love life, her own field of interest and happens to come your way as a friend?

Pick your friends carefully, has been the golden rule but often times people who don’t even make the friendship cut, cause of who they are and their set of principles, standards or etiquettes, we take into the lovers banquet and then we complain we never had true love. How would we ever find true love when we are always fiddling with those whose habit and values we can’t stand? How would we ever find true love when we’re always carousing around with those we don’t want to be seen with in public? Why won’t we be yelled at, verbally abused, slapped or be beaten when we choose to fall in love with those who have no respect for who we are.

Many young lovers are stranded in the middle of nowhere, simply because they are not even friends with the ones they are intimate with. They are left standing

in the rain, kept waiting at odd places in the night, while begging profusely to be seen, accepted or taken in just because they are falling in love with those who have no friendship to offer.

My dear readers, before you dance to the beat of passion, make sure the person you have in view understands this simple rules of friendship.

Evaluating people by the friendship principle entails that we seek to know whether they choose to spend time with us on purpose or on intent, whether they are willing to root for us on purpose in public, or make a sacrifice to be with us, it demands that we seek to know if they will identify and introduce us to others in a social setting, And whether our invitation to them for companionship at our own defining hour is being turned down or honoured.

The Companionship principle is one of the broadest and the most defining principles of friendship, it envelopes everything and it's a major cardinal point to look for. If you can't get a companion when you ask for it, and you have to cajole, ask endlessly, beg, cry and plead before you can have someone with you, when it matters most to you, the friendship tenet is messed up.

A hook up done in the night is not a yardstick for companionship. A friend who turns to a lover, is often proud of a public display of affection such as a hug, a kiss, or an embrace, while in front of others, this is because such a person is validated, seen as equal and loved, and the partner is willing to announce them to the world.

Many would gladly identify as lovers behind the curtain, but it's actually a dating trade as they cannot walk together in public.

If we're going to find true love, we're going to first find true friends.

THE END

I wish all my readers the best of love and light.

May you find friend who will be there for you when you need them, may you find those who will make life fun and worth living, may you find sincere, true and honest friends. Amen.